

FACTS ABOUT

Truck and Bus Regulation

Agricultural Vehicle Provisions

Less stringent requirements for owners of agricultural vehicles

On December 12, 2008, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) approved a new regulation to significantly reduce emissions from existing on-road diesel vehicles operating in California. The regulation requires affected trucks and buses to meet performance requirements between 2011 and 2023. By January 1, 2023, all vehicles must have a 2010 model year engine or equivalent. For general information about the regulation, see *Overview of the Truck and Bus Regulation*. This fact sheet discusses the less stringent provisions for certain agricultural vehicles.

How does the proposed regulation define an agricultural vehicle?

An agricultural vehicle is one that meets one of the following definitions:

- A vehicle required to have a hazardous material placard and is used exclusively to deliver fertilizer or pesticides to a farm.
- A vehicle owned by a farming business that is used exclusively in agricultural operations without compensation. Examples include farm trucks used to pick up supplies, mend fences, move cattle, and other farming operations, but not personal use vehicles or vehicles leased to others.
- A truck that is designed for and used exclusively in agricultural operations and is operated for compensation such as manure spreaders, feed mixers, and bale processors, but does not include support vehicles used to service equipment or to transport workers, equipment or supplies. Water trucks used exclusively on farms are also included.
- A truck used exclusively to transport unprocessed agricultural products to the first point of processing. Examples include trucks transporting crops from the farm to a packing shed, cotton to a cotton gin, or logs from the forest to the saw mill.

What is a farming business?

A farming business is a business that operates or manages a farm for profit, either as owner or tenant. It does not include farm support businesses such as soil preparation services, farm labor companies, or businesses providing other agricultural services such as farm management for a fee or on a contract basis.

What are agricultural operations?

Agricultural operations include the activity of growing or harvesting crops for the primary purpose of making a profit including horticultural, viticultural, aquacultural, forestry, dairy, livestock, bee, or farm product. It also includes the cutting or removing of timber, solid wood products, and biomass from forestlands for commercial purposes.

What are the provisions that apply to lower mileage agricultural vehicles?

Vehicles qualifying for the lower mileage vehicle exemptions are limited to the number of qualifying vehicles initially reported and must be labeled. Starting January 1, 2010, agricultural vehicles that operate below the annual mileage thresholds shown in Table 1, based on engine model year, are exempt from the PM filter and replacement requirements until January 1, 2017. By January 1, 2017, these vehicles must comply with the regulation like non-agricultural vehicles.

Table 1	
2006 or newer engines	less than 25,000 miles per year
1996 through 2005 engines	less than 20,000 miles per year
Pre-1996 engines	less than 15,000 miles per year

Starting January 1, 2010, agricultural vehicles that drive less than 10,000 miles each year are exempt from the PM filter and replacement requirements until January 1, 2023. To maintain this exemption, these vehicles can never be operated more than 10,000 miles in any calendar year.

Each year, the number of agricultural vehicles qualifying for the lower mileage exemptions may not increase, but the vehicles may be replaced if the following conditions are met:

- The replacement vehicle is at least one year newer than the one being replaced,
- The total mileage for the replacement vehicle and the one being replaced continues to meet the mileage limits, and
- The number of vehicles that qualify for the provisions does not increase.

What are the provisions for certain specialty agricultural vehicles?

Vehicles that are approved as specialty agricultural vehicles are exempt from the retrofit and engine replacement requirements until January 1, 2023 and must be labeled. These vehicles have no mileage restrictions, but are limited to 1,100 vehicles in the San Joaquin Valley and 2,200 statewide. Once the limits are reached no more vehicles will qualify as specialty agricultural vehicles.

Specialty agricultural vehicles are limited to the following body types and uses:

- cotton module movers
- water trucks used exclusively on the farm
- feed trucks used to dispense food specifically at calf and cattle feedlots
- nurse rigs used exclusively to resupply airplanes or helicopters

How are the vehicles in the fleet that do not qualify as agricultural vehicles treated?

Vehicles that do not qualify for the agricultural vehicle provisions must meet the requirements of the regulation like other non-agricultural vehicles. There are three compliance options that include the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) compliance schedule, the BACT percentage limits, and the fleet averaging option. The details of these options can be found in the regulatory language. In addition a fleet calculator is available to assist fleet owners in developing their own compliance programs. Additional information is provided in the *Truck and Bus Regulation General Overview*.

What are the reporting requirements for agricultural vehicles?

By January 31, 2010, fleets utilizing the agricultural vehicles provision must report information on the fleet as it existed on January 1, 2009, and report annually thereafter.

Where can I find more information about the regulation?

Fact sheets, compliance tools, and regulatory documents are available at www.arb.ca.gov/dieseltruck or by calling the ARB's diesel hotline at (866) 6DIESEL (634-3735). You may also obtain this document in an alternative format by contacting ARB at: (916) 322-4505 (voice); (916) 324-9531 (TDD, Sacramento area only); or (800) 700-8326 (TDD, outside Sacramento). TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.